

ABSTRACT

Method of data operation facilitating utilization of legitimate users without violating the copyright and literary property of digital content. A part of digital content (11) is duplicated to create discrete data unit (43), and is encrypted with content key (45). Content key (45) and image-compositing information (42) are encrypted with secret key (47) to create authorization information (48). Content information (41) is visibly embedded in digital content (11). Authorization information-added data unit (50) in which authorization information (48) is embedded as invisible information and encrypted discrete data unit information (46) are composited into composite data (60), which is then distributed.